

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 19 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 21 has been added. The Applicant has carefully and thoughtfully considered the Office Action and the comments therein. For the reasons given below, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 2-6, the Action rejects claims 1-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0003525 to Ebina et al. (hereinafter Ebina). Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. Claim 1 has been cancelled. New claim 21 contains material similar to that in cancelled claim 1.

Addressing this rejection in the context of new claim 21, Applicants respectfully submit that Ebina does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 21, as will be shown, for at least the following four reasons.

First, Ebina does not teach “a plurality of processors which perform predetermined parallel processing cooperatively,” as recited in claim 21. Instead, Ebina teaches a device in which several nodes, connected in series, form a ring network. Ebina, paragraph [0017] and FIG. 1. When the user cell is received by a downstream node from an upstream node, the downstream node rewrites a data portion of the control user cell related to itself and sends the rewritten cell to yet another downstream node. Ebina, paragraph [0018]. The process is repeated by successive nodes until the control user cell completes the ring. *Id.* **Thus, Ebina teaches a user cell sequentially transmitted between individual nodes in a ring network.** Ebina, paragraph [0029]. **In contrast, claim 21 teaches “a plurality of processors which perform predetermined parallel processing cooperatively.”**

Second, Ebina does not teach, “a plurality of processor interfaces having one or more cell distributors and one or more selectors, in which each of said processors is connected to one of said cell distributors and one of said selectors,” as recited in claim 21. While the office action does not clearly identify which of features of Ebina it considers to be the processor versus the processor interface, Ebina does not teach the use of cell distributors **and** selectors. Instead, Ebina teaches a

device in which nodes are connected directly to one another in series via upstream transmission lines and downstream transmission lines, which begin and end at an individual node's ATM switch. Ebina, paragraph [0020]. **Individual signals** are then input/output among **individual components** within each node. Ebina, paragraph [0020] and FIG. 2. Signals are not combined before being input into individual components. In contrast, claim 21 recites "a plurality of processor interfaces having **one or more cell distributors and one or more selectors**, in which each of said processors is connected to one of said cell distributors and one of said selectors."

Third, Ebina does not teach, "communication cells . . . possessing transmission rights," as recited in claim 21. Instead, Ebina discloses a technology for transferring a control user cell in a ring network. Ebina, paragraph [0018]. The control user cell may contain broadcasting control data, flags, and response messages. Ebina, paragraph [0021]. Ebina does not, however, disclose the storage of transmission rights. In contrast, claim 21 discloses, "**communication cells . . . possessing transmission rights.**"

Fourth, Ebina does not teach, "selectors [which] receive communication cells from said corresponding processor and output the communication cells onto said internal communication path when possessing a transmission rights," as recited in claim 21. Instead, as discussed above, Ebina teaches a user cell sequentially transmitted among individual nodes in a ring network without the use of transmission rights or selectors. Ebina, paragraph [0029]. **Therefore, because Ebina does not disclose the use of selectors or transmission rights it cannot be understood as disclosing selectors which output only communication cells possessing a transmission rights.** In contrast claim 21 recites, "selectors receive communication cells from said corresponding processor and **output the communication cells onto said internal communication path when possessing a transmission rights.**"

Claims 2-20 depend from claim 21 are allowable, at least, for depending from an allowable claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 7-8, the Action rejects claims 17, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebina in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,896,501 to Ikeda et al. (hereinafter Ikeda). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Because claims 17, 18, and 20 depend from claim 12, which is allowable over Ebina, as discussed above, claims 17, 18, and 20 are allowable over the combination of Ebina in view of Ikeda. Further, the teachings of Ikeda do not overcome the deficiencies of Ebina. Thus, claims 17, 18, and 20 are nonobvious and allowable over Ebina in view of Ikeda.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

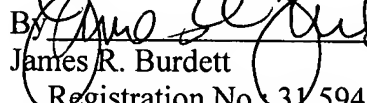
If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

8/2/2007

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